

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace pending paragraph 46 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figures 2 and 3, nozzle 22 has a body 68 having a steel central core portion 70, an outer surface 72, and a tip 74, which is seated in gate 26. Tip 74 has a flow channel 76 which is aligned with central melt bore 24. Nozzle 22 is seated and secured in manifold 16 by a threaded portion 78. Heater assembly 39 has an electrical resistive wire heating element 80, having [[a]] cold pin connections 82 for connecting wire element 80 to a power supply (not shown). Heater assembly 30 also has a first insulating layer 84 and a second insulating layer 86 disposed on either side of wire element 80, so as to "sandwich" element 80 therebetween. First layer 84 is positioned on core 70, with wire element 80 wrapped therearound, and second layer 86 positioned thereover. An outer steel layer 8 is provided to finish nozzle 22. These layers are provided in a manner as will be described in more detail below.

Please replace paragraph 53 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figures 4-7, other embodiments of a nozzle heater according to the present invention are shown. In the embodiment of Figure 5, a secondary wire element 90 is provided around second layer 86, protected by a third insulating layer 92. In this three-layer embodiment, second layer 86 is preferably a good heat conductor and electrical insulator while third layer 92 is a dielectric having good thermal insulating characteristics. Third layer 92 can be chosen from the same set of materials as described above for layers 84 and 86. This embodiment permits a higher wattage heater to be obtained, at the obvious expense of a slightly larger nozzle diameter. Alternatively,

secondary wire element 90 can provide redundancy for operational use if and when the primary wire element fails. Figure 6 shows a configuration similar to Figure 4, but with integral sensors or thermocouple wire 94 and 96 positioned between first layer 84 and second layer 86, wound spirally around nozzle 22 adjacent wire element 80. Inclusion of thermocouples 94 and 96 allows for exacting temperature control in nozzle 22, as will be understood by one skilled in the art. The thermocouples may be disposed immediately adjacent wire element [[8]] 80, as shown in Figure 6, or may be provided between second layer 86 and third insulating layer 92, as depicted in Figure 7. In this embodiment, second layer 86 and third layer 92 preferably have similar characteristics as described above for the Figure 5 embodiment.

Please replace paragraph 71 with the following paragraph:

While the above description constitutes [[he]] the preferred embodiment, it will be appreciated that the present invention is susceptible to modification and change without parting from the fair meaning of the proper scope of the accompanying claims.